

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Welcome to the Massillon City Council Meeting for Monday, July 15, 2024. We have in attendance the following City officials: Mayor, Jamie Slutz, Safety Service Director, Renee Baker, Asst. Law Director, Edmond Mack, City Engineer, Alex Pitts, Director of Development, Ted Herncane, Police Chief, Jason Saintenoy, Income Tax/Budget Director, Lori Kotagides-Boron, Chief Building Official, Frank Silla, and Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Fichter. Under #5 on the agenda is where the public can speak on any topic that appears on tonight’s agenda and under #17 is where the public can speak on any topic that does NOT appear on tonight’s agenda. I’d like to remind you that if you have a cell phone, please set it to mute, vibrate or turn it off. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Roll call, Madam Clerk.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll call for the evening found the following Council Members present: Holly Bryan-Huth, Jill Creamer, Mike Gregg, Julie Harwig Smith, Ed Lewis, Mark Lombardi, Mike Snee and Eric Ray.

Roll call of 8 present

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. I’d like to make a motion to excuse Councilwoman Cunningham.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Bryan-Huth. Roll call, please.

8 yes to excuse Councilwoman Cunningham

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Cunningham has been excused. Councilwoman Creamer.

2. INVOCATION

COUNCILWOMAN JILL CREAMER

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

LED BY COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER

4. READING OF THE JOURNAL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Councilwoman Creamer. Madam Clerk are the minutes of the previous meeting transcribed and open for public viewing?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – Yes, they are.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Are there any additions or corrections to be made?

COUNCIL CLERK ROLLAND – No, there are not.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Then the minutes stand approved as written.

5. REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS AND CITIZENS TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

6. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – A few corrections to the agenda that was sent out on Friday; Ord. No. 70 – 2024 is listed by the Health, Welfare and Building Regulations Committee, it should be listed by the Finance Committee. Ord. No. 60 – 2024 is listed by the Rules, Courts and Civil Service Committee, it should be listed by the Community Development Committee. Apologies from the Council Clerk and those have been corrected. At this time, I'd like to call forward Mr. Edmond Mack.

EDMOND MACK – Hello. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. President. The State Auditor, some of you may know is really kind of taking a different approach to how they view public service and the handling of public funds and now, for the first time, the State Auditor is issuing a requirement that every elected official and public employee of every municipality in the State of Ohio and State employees, complete online training about reporting fraud and what your obligations are with respect to monitoring and oversight of public funds. So, I'd like to hand out a memo to each of members of the body. This explains the process in a little bit more detail. It's a very brief webinar; seven minutes long, but it's really important. It's a very good thing that the Auditor is doing this and we have to have everyone complete this training by September; it's listed here and it's something that we all have to do and not only something that we all took oaths to do, but it's good for our community and the tax-payers dollars. So, thank you very much Mr. President and thank you leader for giving me the time and, that's it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 67 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 67 – 2024

BY: POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Chief of Police, on behalf of the Massillon Police Department, to accept donations from Henderson Lodge #105 and Huntington National Bank for the Annual National Night Out, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Thank you, President Slater. This is self-explanatory. They're just taking in donations for National Night Out which is in August. They do need to move this forward so they can start spending the money. Are there any questions or discussion on this this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 67 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lewis. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 67 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 68 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 68 – 2024

BY: STREETS, HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to advertise for and receive sealed bids and to enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder, upon the approval of the Board of Control, for the Lincoln Way Phase III Improvement Project, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – Thank you, President Slater. This is just for Phase III. This has been in the works since for at least four or five years ago. The current construction price is \$774,251.00. The City is going to be responsible for 51% of the cost which is \$394,868.00. At this time, does anybody on Council have any questions or unanswered questions from the last Work Session? Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Do we have a finance piece or a funding piece that goes with this?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – No. As this was discussed, I believe it's already part of the budgeted allocations for the year. So we wouldn't have to do an additional appropriation because its already in the budget.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Any more questions? Councilman Snee.

COUNCILMAN SNEE – At this time, I'd like to waive the rules requiring three readings and bring Ord. No. 68 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilwoman Creamer. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 68 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 69 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 69 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 3112 Donation Fund, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes, this piece is tied to Ord. No. 67 – 2024. It’s just taking the donations that we are receiving and then appropriating them into the proper account. Are there any questions or discussion this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 69 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCILMAN SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 69 – 2024 has passed. Ord. No. 70 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 70 – 2024

BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE making certain appropriations from the unappropriated balance of the 1100 General Fund, for the purpose of Income Tax Refunds, for the year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – Yes. This is a request to appropriate \$50,000.00 just to fulfill our obligations to fulfill refunds of taxpayers within the City. Are there any questions or discussion this evening? Seeing none, I make a motion that we suspend the rules requiring three readings, bringing Ord. No. 70 – 2024 forward for a vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call for suspension.

8 yes for suspension

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – And for passage.

8 yes for passage

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 70 – 2024 has passed.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. PETITIONS AND GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

A Request for a New Liquor License for Downtown Massillon Hotel Ltd. (The Hampton) located at 44 – 1st St. S.W., Massillon, Ohio 44647. The Permit Class is D5A and is located in Ward 2.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Ray, did you receive a copy?

COUNCILMAN RAY – Yes I did, President. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

10. BILLS, ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

US Bank Equipment Finance - \$133.35 July Payment for Copier

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I make a motion that we pay the bills

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call.

8 yes to pay the bills

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – The Clerk will pay the bills and charge them to their proper accounts.

11. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor's Report - June 2024
Auditor's Report - June 2024

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lewis.

COUNCILMAN LEWIS – I make a motion that we accept the Auditor's Report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Gregg. Roll call.

8 yes to accept the Auditor's Report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. The Auditor's Report has been accepted.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Our next Work Session will be Monday July 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. and Council is off the week of July 22nd.

13. RESOLUTIONS AND REQUESTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

14. CALL OF THE CALENDAR

15. THIRD READING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 56 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 56 – 2024

BY: RULES, COURTS & CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending the rules of Massillon City Council by amending Rule 19 “Standing Committees” (1) and (5) of Section 121.02 “RULES OF COUNCIL” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Gregg.

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Thank you, President Slater. We’ve have given this three readings up until this evening. Is there any more questions or discussion? Seeing none, as it has three readings, so we’re ready to vote.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lewis. Roll call for passage.

7 yes; 1 no – Ray

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Madam Clerk. Ord. No. 56 – 2024 has passed.

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Ord. No. 60 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 60 – 2024

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE enacting CHAPTER 778 “ADULT USE CANNABIS CONTROL” under PART SEVEN, “BUSINESS REGULATION CODE” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you, Mr. President. My intent was to have the amended language to all of you prior to this evening, but, I was unsuccessful with that. So, I will be working to get that language to all of you prior to the Work Session on the 29th. So tonight, I will just give this second reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Ord. No. 60 – 2024 has received second reading. Ord. No. 61 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 61 – 2024

BY: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending PART ELEVEN “PLANNING AND ZONING CODE”-CHAPTERS 1163, 1165 AND 1167 of TITLE FIVE – “ZONING DISTRICTS” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio, to allow as a permitted use in all B-1, B-2 and B-3 business districts, excluding the Historic District, adult use cannabis operators, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – Thank you, Mr. President. The same thing goes for this ordinance. My intent was to have the amended language to all of you prior to this evening, but I will be working on that and you will have it for the July 29th Work Session. Second reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Ord. No. 61 – 2024 has received second reading. Ord. No. 62 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 62 – 2024

BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BUILDING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending PART ELEVEN “PLANNING AND ZONING CODE” – CHAPTER 1181 of TITLE SEVEN – “ACCESSORY BUILDINGS”, Section 1181.01(c) and (e) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio, per the attached Exhibit “A”.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Second reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Ord. No. 62 – 2024 has received second reading. Ord. No. 63 – 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 63 – 2024

BY: HEALTH, WELFARE & BUILDING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE amending PART ELEVEN “PLANNING AND ZONING CODE” – CHAPTER 1121 of TITLE THREE – “CONSTRUCTION OF LANGUAGE; DEFINITIONS” Section 1121.02(9) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Massillon, Ohio, per the attached Exhibit “A”.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilman Lombardi.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI – Second reading.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Ord. No. 63 – 2024 has received second reading.

17. REMARKS OF DELEGATIONS AND CITIZENS TO MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

BROOKE LONGHEIR – Ward 2. I’m just curious to know since January 1, 2023 how much grant money has went to this City and of that grant money, how much has been returned unused? Specifically, in the buildings, on the buildings and to which buildings? Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Anyone else?

DAVID MCCUNE – A resident of the 6th Ward here in the City of Massillon and I'm here tonight to, once again, address the Federally illegal actions of Councilman Snee; the night that he showed up at my house demanding that I had questions for him and he was there to answer them. Again, and still, I don't have any questions for you. Tonight I want to address quotes I read in the recent newspaper article regarding Mr. Snee's actions when he showed up to my house. First and foremost, I want to stress to Mr. Snee that we share nothing personal. You are, in fact, the type of person that I will not associate with in my real life. Secondly, when you showed up at my door, you showed up in an official capacity stating that you were there for me to answer questions to you that I didn't have. We share nothing personal. It's unfortunate that Ms. Cunningham is not here tonight because in that same article she as much called me a liar and I don't take kindly to being called a liar. Everything I have said before this body is 100% true and I stand behind it. Those of you here in this body and specifically, Mrs. Cunningham, should go online, maybe, and read some of the quotes, some of the comments about Mr. Snee and his coercion and intimidation online. In fact, it appears that Mr. Snee is the keyboard warrior he accused me of being. Also I found in these comments that I'm not the first person that he showed up at their door of. The other person, he showed up at their place of employment. So as you can see, you have rouge member of this Council who fancies himself a bully. It has become very apparent that from those comments on Massillon Live that this man fashions himself a bully and demands attention from all members of Council. I have to gather my thoughts because I really hate being called a liar. Everything that has been fashioned here, has been quoted here, has been documented here is 100% the truth. To address people like Mrs. Cunningham and others that want to try to call me a liar, I will voluntarily take a lie detector test. I am that sure that everything that I've said I stand behind, if Mr. Snee will take one as well. Alright, so again, I demand that this body formally censor Mr. Snee in the hope that his party leadership will act accordingly. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

STEPHENIE RANGLES – I'm a little short. Hi. I'm new to the community and new to this meeting. I'm not sure which ward I belong to, but I live on 5th St. S.E. I am the new homeowner of that property. I received a code violation under the recreational vehicle code, 1365.01. I'm just curious as to how this harms other community members and neighborhood members. I have entered the deed of that home, paid off nearly a month ago; about a month and a week ago and I have massive goals to reconstruct that home as it should be as a single-family home, per the neighborhood's wishes and requirements. At this time, this code violation has caused a call for me to vacate the property. I have nowhere else to go. So, I am asking for some suggestions, reprieve or something to that effect. I have no idea what to do. I, like I said, I'm pretty new to Ohio. I moved out here from Southern California to escape their horrendous actions. But, I would like some solutions on how we can go forward with this. Apparently, there is a permit that is required for me to have it there, but it is only authorized for seventy-two hour periods at a time. So, I'm really confused as to what's going on. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you.

STEPHENIE RANGLES – And what ward would that be in?

COUNCILMAN GREGG – Ward 3; that's my ward. I'll talk to you after the meeting.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you, Mr. Gregg.

GAYLE DANZY – Good evening, Ward 1. I have a question for Council. I want to know is it written anywhere that this Council is governed by Robert's Rules of Order? I would like for someone whoever can answer that for me to tell me that. Because I believe that some of the concerns that we have going on right now, if you were governed by Robert's Rules of Order, it wouldn't be taking place. Also, while I realize that Council President, it is really, I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, but your responsibility to address concerns that come concerning Council. So I'm hoping that at some point, you are going to address the things that have come up and I'll just add that I'm a victim of Mr. Snee also. Second, has the position for the Equal Employment Officer been posted yet or has anyone been contacted to fill this position. I think I was told, I'm going to guess because I just kind of stopped coming, I know y'all recognize that and probably happy that I have, but I had some concerns tonight. So that's why I'm back tonight. This was told to me or in Council, I'm thinking at least two or three months ago that that position was being not filled because the Mayor was waiting to make it a full time position and not a part-time position so that more people would apply. So I just want to know, has it been made any position and has anyone apply? There's money from the State that could be made available to Massillon for the Historic Lincoln Highway. It is a Historic Lincoln Highway that passes through downtown Massillon. So, there is money available from the State that could come to Massillon that could help restore or do things in downtown Massillon. So, I was wondering if anyone was interested in securing that money? I do watch Council every week. Since we're trying to get tax dollars anyway we can, I just wondered if anyone was interested in apply for some of that money that is available and Canton has received some of that money because Lincoln Highway is historic and it runs through Canton as well as Massillon. So, that's some money that's available to us if we're just looking for dollars. One of the things that I said in an interview that I was involved in, is that there's money out there. There's a lot of money that the City could get if anyone is interested in applying. And my last question is, during election time, it was brought up that we would love to have some open forums with Council where the public can speak to Council prior to Council meetings. Maybe once or twice a month; whenever that would be allowed so that the things that you vote on each week, you get to discuss with the residents that elected you before you decide how you're going to vote. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Thank you. Anyone else?

JOHN SNEE – If there's anything that I can do, don't hesitate to ask. That sounds like an open invitation to come talk to me. You could probably could take a lie detector and learn that and know, that's the truth. I'm from Jackson also. I grew up there. A lot of what we learned when we were younger was simply, ten o'clock was the cut-off to make phone calls, to visit, things like that. It was daylight outside, we went and knocked on doors, but I mean guess that was twenty some years ago and things are definitely a lot different now. So, a lots of interpretations that can change over the years, I guess. Ultimately, I wanted to make mention of something that was brought up for this whole issue and that was simply this, the original point, I believe that I had seen online was simply to care for people. To care for their lives. To care for their well-being. To make sure that something as simple as a football game, people do not get harmed. They can enjoy it and we do our best to make sure that we protect everybody as best we can. Even if that's definitely something that's above where I would know to start, but I know, hopefully, you guys would know. The Board of Education, somewhere along those lines would be where we could start that process. This is definitely something

that's bigger than just one person. But I guess other people want to make it about themselves. That's all I got to say on that one. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Anyone else?

18. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Councilwoman Creamer.

COUNCILWOMAN CREAMER – I make a motion that we adjourn.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Seconded by Councilman Lombardi. Roll call, please.

8 yes to adjourn

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SLATER – Meeting adjourned.

DIANE ROLLAND, COUNCIL CLERK

MIKE SLATER, PRESIDENT